

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Status of the claims

With entry of this amendment, claims 8, 10, 26, and 31-32 are canceled and claims 7, 14, 16, 22, 24, 27, 28, and 30 are amended. Claims 7, 14, 16, 20, 22-25, and 27-30 are pending with entry of the amendment.

II. Support for the amendments

Support for the amendments can be found in the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. For example, support for use of a polynucleotide at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1 to inhibit gene expression can be found on, e.g., page 14, lines 21-22 and page 5, line 31 of the specification.

III. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification because Figures 1A-1H were submitted previously, but the specification only refers to "Figure 1." As amended, the specification refers to Figures "1A-1H."

IV. Objection to claim 16

The Examiner objected to claim 16. The language objected to in claim 16 has been deleted. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

V. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and requested a number of minor language changes, mostly involving adding "sequence" to a claim. Applicants have either inserted the language suggested by the Examiner or deleted the offending language in the claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

VI. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly not meeting the written description and enablement requirements. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

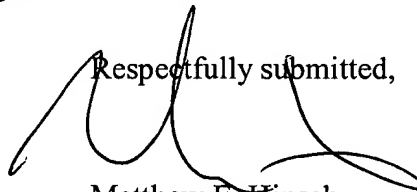
Applicants thank the Examiner and his supervisor for the helpful interview last month. In light of the interview, it is Applicant's understanding that the claims, as amended, are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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